

not only in this town but in America, and for his country.

LETTER FROM GREG HOLLOWAY

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as part of a nationwide effort to pass the right kind of health care reform, a constituent from Austin, Greg Holloway, has written an open letter to Congress. He represents the organization Common Sense Texans:

"My name is Greg Holloway. I speak not only for myself and my family but also for over a hundred thousand other Texans with whom I collaborate and who I know share my views.

"You tell us that you are concerned about health care for our disadvantaged citizens. We are too. We wrote a plan, published by the Austin American-Statesman, that would immediately allow up to \$100 billion annually to be sent directly to private health care and health insurance for the needy without a raise in taxes. You ignore any of our alternatives and instead raise taxes, increase costs, and draft a bill that excludes millions and provides no meaningful health care benefits until 2013.

"Stop this bill and give us health care reform that will help, not hurt, our country and its citizens."

JOBS

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, the holiday season should be a joyous time for all as we celebrate with our loved ones and count our blessings.

Unfortunately, many families have been hit hard by the downturn and are feeling the pinch during this special time. Far too many people in my district are out of work and even more are making due with less. It will be a challenge for them to make sure their children have a memorable holiday. I am confident they will make do and remind their families what's really important: faith, family, and health.

But this should remind us how important it is for Congress to help create jobs. Partisan bickering cannot stand in the way of creating jobs and helping these families.

There is much we can do to create new opportunities in Arizona and across the country, and we can't just wish for things to get better. We must actively work to make things better, and that must be our top priority.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MICHELIN'S LEXINGTON COUNTY PLANT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago on November 28, 1979, I was honored to help break ground on the Michelin Tire Corporation plant in Lexington, South Carolina, recruited by Governor Jim Edwards.

Michelin, the French tire manufacturer, has annual sales of \$7.25 billion, and they employ close to 18,000 American workers. Over 7,000 of those jobs are in my home State.

For over 30 years, Michelin plants have been successful due to hard-working South Carolinians, and today they specialize in world-class car and Earth-mover tires. In addition to providing jobs, Michelin is an involved corporate citizen.

Another extraordinary achievement, yesterday we broke ground on the Ameresco biomass cogeneration project at the Savannah River site. CEO George Sakellaris has pioneered the development of alternative energy projects.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

THE ESCALATION IN AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Today our President will announce an escalation in Afghanistan: as many as 35,000 additional troops, costing an additional \$35 billion to prop up a government which most acknowledge is indefensibly corrupt.

We need to redefine our national security. Our national security will not be found in occupations which fuel insurgencies. Our national security will not be found through paying off contestants in Afghanistan who are with us one day and who shoot at our soldiers the next.

We can secure our borders without expanding them across the world. And we can redefine our national security by making sure that every able-bodied person in America has a job, by helping people save their homes and protect their savings and their investments and their retirement security.

We need new thinking and a new course of action, not further into Afghanistan but out. Not further away from the concerns of the American people, but focusing on what's important here at home.

CONGRESS MUST REPEAL THE DEATH TAX

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, the estate tax, also known as the death tax, has been a drag on America's family-owned small businesses for

decades. It threatens our Nation's farms and ranches, the very businesses which produce 86 percent of U.S. agricultural products.

Farmers and ranchers work their entire lives to build their land and equipment for their operations; yet the existence of the death tax could take it all away.

The death tax impedes economic growth because it lowers incentives for small family businesses to invest capital in their own economic endeavors. In other words, it punishes success.

This flies in the face of the very principles upon which our country was founded.

The estate tax is inappropriate, and it needs to be eliminated once and for all. Doing so in the right way would lift a tremendous weight off the shoulders of America's family-owned small businesses, farms, and ranches.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE TOWN OF WAKE FOREST, NORTH CAROLINA

(Mr. MILLER of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 100th birthday of Wake Forest, North Carolina.

The State legislature officially chartered the town on February 20, 1909; but the community really dates from 1832 when Dr. Calvin Jones sold 613 acres of land to the North Carolina Baptist Convention to establish the Wake Forest Manual Labor Institute to train future ministers. The institution later became Wake Forest College.

Dr. Jones described Wake Forest as "one of the best communities in the State. The inhabitants, without, I believe, a single exception, are sober, moral, and thriving in their circumstances, and not a few are educated and intelligent."

That is still true of Wake Forest. Although Wake Forest College moved to Winston-Salem in 1956, the Southern Baptist Convention located its new seminary in Wake Forest, maintaining Wake Forest's reputation as a town of higher learning and faith.

Wake Forest is now a progressive community of more than 27,000 residents. Forbes Magazine recently listed Wake Forest as the 20th fastest-growing suburb in America. The residents of Wake Forest now boast a vibrant town with more than 100 businesses and a rich and well-maintained historical district.

I join the residents of Wake Forest in their centennial celebration.

NAVY SEALS CAPTURE FALLUJAH TERRORIST

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Navy's elite commando unit, the